MARVEL COMICS

26 JAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

X-MEN 2099

PRINCE AMONG WARRIORS

DIRECT EDITION

02611

7 59606 01160 5

$1.50 US $2.05 CAN

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE... STAY BACK!

I AM THE LORD FLAME BEARER!! I BANISH YOU FROM THIS REALM OF MISERY AND INTO THE HEART OF THE GREAT FLAME!

MY NUTROID METABOLISM CAN TAKE THIS HEAT--

AIEEEE! NO, THE HEAT!

THE WHOOSH

--YOU CAN'T!

RAVAGE 2099 ™ Vol. 1, No. 26, January, 1996. (ISSN # 1067-9553) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.05 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S., $30.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. RAVAGE 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO RAVAGE 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1978 DANBURY, CT 06813-1978. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-6331. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

HOPE YOU CAN PICK UP MY THOUGHTS FROM THIS RANGE, RAVAGE... I'VE NEVER TRIED OVER SUCH A DISTANCE.

ALL I'VE GOT SINCE I TUNED IN TO YOU AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH THE TRUCK, IS A LOT OF FIRE!

I'VE TRACKED THE THING THAT HIT YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT... IT'S A ENORMOUS CONVOY OF WAGONS.

IT SEEMS TO BE RUNNING IN DIMINISHING CIRCLES...PROBABLY UNMANNED.

IF I HAVE YOUR POSITION RIGHT... YOU HAVE ABOUT THREE HOURS BEFORE IT HITS THE TOWN YOU'RE IN!

AND YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS WERE RIGHT... THERE IS A DRIVER!

I THINK YOU WOULD DESCRIBE THIS CHARACTER AS "OUT TO LUNCH!"

NO HITCHERS! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT MEGATRUK DOES TO HITCHERS AND PIRATES!

SKEEEEEEK!

MEGA-DEATH!

PAT MILLS ◆ TONY SKINNER
WRITERS
JOE BENNETT
PENCILER
GREG ADAMS
INKER
PHIL FELIX
LETTERER
MIKE THOMAS
COLORIST
MATT MORRA
EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI
GROUP ED.
TOM DEFALCO
CHIEF

RAVAGE 2099
CREATED BY
STAN LEE ◆
PAUL RYAN

SKREEEEEK!

YOUR PLOT WILL NOT SUCCEED, TRAITOR... THE USURPERS WILL BE CRUSHED!

TCHANG!

THAT WAS CLOSE... I'M ON MY WAY TO YOU, RAVAGE.

YOUR VILLAGERS REALLY SHOULDN'T MEET THIS CHARACTER.

GREET ALL UNAUTHORIZED INTRUSION WITH EXTREME FORCE...

...SUCH INTRUSION IS CLASSIFIED AS ATTEMPTED PIRACY...

...SUB-ROUTINE 39X0552 -- ALL THOSE IN OPPOSITION TO THE "NEW HORIZON FREEDOM PARTY"... ARE CLASSIFIED AS PIRATES!

IF FERRA WAS RIGHT, AND SHE ALWAYS WAS, THIS TOWN HAD AN HOUR TO LIVE... MAYBE THAT WAS FOR THE BEST... THEY ALL SEEMED TO WANT TO DIE, ANYWAY!

...ANYBODY ELSE WANT A QUICK TRIP TO THE AFTERLIFE?

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE LIVE IN FEAR... THE GREAT FLAME IS A HARSH MASTER... WE AWAIT THE "DIVINE ONE" TO DO HIS WILL...

PLEASE... WHO-EVER YOU ARE... DO NOT JUDGE US SO HARSHLY... WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.

NONE MAY OPPOSE THE FLAME OR HIS EMISSARIES WITH-OUT INSTANTLY BEING SENT TO THE PLACE OF DARKNESS!

WAIT A MINUTE... I JUST KNOCKED THE CRUD OUT OF A FLAME-BEARER--I'M STILL HERE! NO "INSTANT DARKNESS" FOR ME!

RAVAGE! NO CLOTHES? YOU'LL SOON BE LIKE ME... NOT HUMAN AT ALL!

ER--EVERY-BODY... THIS IS MY FRIEND FERRA...

YOU PEOPLE DO WHAT YOU WANT--

IF... IF ONLY WE COULD BE SURE... PERHAPS YOU ARE AN EMISSARY... THIS MAY ALL BE ANOTHER TEST...

--WE'RE GOING AFTER THAT TRUCK!

RAVAGE, EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ME... WHY DO HUMANS BEHAVE IN SUCH A BIZARRE MANNER... ALL OTHER ANIMALS ACT MORE OR LESS CONSISTENTLY...

...WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THE HUMAN SPECIES?

THAT'S HARD, FERRA. ONCE, I COULD HAVE ANSWERED EASILY... AND BEEN *WRONG!*

PROBLEM IS, I NO LONGER SEE MYSELF AS HUMAN... MAYBE I NEED THIS DISTANCE TO UNDERSTAND MY SPECIES...

ISN'T THAT WHY BARRIO MAN SENT ME HERE TO FIND THE VALLEY OF THE BEASTS, IN THE FIRST PLACE...? I'M SUPPOSED TO *REDISCOVER* MY HUMANITY HERE.

ONE THING I DO KNOW...

...EVEN THOSE MISGUIDED FIRE WORSHIPPERS DON'T DESERVE TO *DIE* AT THE HANDS OF A MAD MACHINE!

LET'S TURN THIS FOUR-ARMED TOASTER INTO *GARBAGE!*

YOU UGLY PILE OF JUNK! GET READY FOR ROUND TWO...!

NO PIRATES! NO DYSFUNCTIONAL UNITS!

NOW, FERRA!

RRR

AAGH!

WHAT THE SHOCK?!

NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE NEEDING THESE, FRIEND...

THOUGH I'M NO LONGER HUMAN IN THE MODERN SENSE ...I DIDN'T FEEL COM-FORTABLE NAKED.

I COULDN'T DRESS LIKE AN ORDINARY MAN EITHER...

...BUT THIS IS SERIOUSLY COOL!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE? HOW DID THESE PEOPLE DIE...? WHERE WERE THEY GOING...?

THESE ARE SETTLERS OF SOME KIND... THIS MAN WAS GOING TO BE A MINER... AND BY THE LOOK OF IT THEY WERE FULLY PREPARED.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE PUT UP QUITE A FIGHT AGAINST WHOEVER KILLED THEM ALL.

THE MAGAZINE IS COMPLETELY DISCHARGED ~ HE EMPTIED A WHOLE CLIP AT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.

THESE FLATTENED BULLETS HIT SOMETHING VERY HARD.. SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T STOP..

..SOMETHING LIKE THAT CURSED ROBOT!

HEY, TIN-HEAD! I'M COMING FOR YOU!

TOK!

WHA?

REBEL! PIRATE! YOU WILL BE RENDERED NON-OPERATIONAL!
KRASH!

YOU STUPID LUMP OF STEEL... YOU'VE MALFUNCTIONED!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE HERE?!

UNH! YOU'RE STRONG!

SECURITY PROGRAM, FIVE ONE FIVE... NO HITCHERS! ALL INTRUSIONS TO BE MET WITH ULTIMATE FORCE!

SPANG

ULTIMATE FORCE? I'LL SHOW YOU ULTIMATE FORCE!!

THIS IS HOW IT *FEELS* TO BE HIT BY A TRUCK IN THE *MIDDLE* OF THE NIGHT!

SECURITY PROGRAM EIGHT FOUR NINE...NO PERSONS ALLOWED IN THE CONTROL CABIN... INTRUSION TO [redacted] MET WITH ULTIMATE...

YEAH, YEAH... I KNOW THE REST!

AAOOAOH

WHEN DEALING WITH PERSONS WHO DISREGARD PROGRAM 849... I AM AUTHOR-IZED TO USE...

...CHASSIS MODIFICATION... MAIN POWER RE-ROUTE... EIGHTY-FIVE KILOWATTS-- *MAXIMUM POWER!!*

WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, RAVAGE, YOU BETTER DO IT FAST... THE "IDIOT BRIGADE" HAS WALKED OUT INTO THE DESERT TO MEET THEIR "DIVINE ONE"!

I CAN'T MAKE THEM MOVE!

NONE OF THESE PEOPLE RESPOND TO MY TELEPATHY, RAVAGE... AND FLAPPING AT THEM DOESN'T WORK.

TAKE ME, DEMON OF FLAME!

STAND FAST! THIS IS ANOTHER TEST!

HOW TEMPTING -- BUT... NO!

NO HITCHERS, METAL-HEAD!

HM! WHEEL'S LOCKED...NO TIME TO FIGURE OUT THE DELOCKING PROCEDURE...

...BETTER HIT THE BIG BUTTON!

PROGRAM PARAMETERS DICTATE...

GTZZZB!

SKRUNCH!

PARDON ME, BROTHER TREKKER...BUT I MUST RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU NOT TO TOUCH THE CONTROLS...MITCHER! SABOTEUR...! BZZIT! ANNIHILATE!!!

AAAGH!

WHY THANK YOU SIR... I AM THE TOP-OF-THE-RANGE DRIVER-NAVIGATOR, MODEL NUMBER CX13 FROM STARK-FUJIKAWA INDUSTRIES...

...VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!

WHAT DOES IT *TAKE* TO STOP YOU?

YOU'RE TOUGH, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!

YEAH? WELL, I'M A STATE-OF-THE-ART *PRIMEVAL* BEAST-MAN...

...MANUFACTURED BY GOOD OLD MOTHER NATURE... AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING, ROBOT...

...SHE WAS IN A *BAD MOOD* THE DAY SHE MADE ME!

SO GET THE FRAG OUT OF MY FACE!

K-CHANG!

EMERGENCY

KRASH

MAYBE I OVER-ACTED A LITTLE, THERE.

UUUNNH! I-- I DID IT! I'VE SAVED THEM!

YOU STUPID HERD OF LEMMINGS! I'M SICK OF GETTING SMASHED UP ON YOUR BEHALF.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT...? SIT IN THE SUN, HOPING TO DIE OF THIRST?!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, RAVAGE...

YOU HAVE FOUGHT AND DESTROYED THE DIVINE ONE! YOU TRULY ARE A SERVANT OF THE GREAT FLAME!

PLEASE TAKE THIS AND BE OUR NEW FLAME [redacted]

I'VE HAD ENOUGH NUTSO RELIGION TO LAST AN ETERNITY...

GRROAWL!!

RAV, DON'T DO IT... I'M TELEPATHIC, REMEMBER

COME ON, YOU LOSERS... WE'RE ALL GOING THROUGH THIS WRECKAGE UNTIL WE FIND THE "BLACK BOX"... THE JOURNEY RECORDS.

IF I CAN JUST ISOLATE THE POWER AMPLIFIER... THESE UNITS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR...

...GOT IT...! NOW WE FIND OUT WHAT THE SHOCK HAPPENED ON THAT WAGON TRAIN.

I WANT SOME ANSWERS AFTER ALL THIS GRIEF.

AH... HERE WE GO--A TRUSTY "MAGIC-MEMO"... THE TREKKERS ONLY USED THE BEST, IT SEEMS!

THEY WERE A COLLECTIVE OF FAMILIES WHO ALL YEARNED FOR A SIMPLER AND IDEALISTIC LIFE.

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE "NEW FRONTIER, TREKKER FAMILIES." THEY HAD POOLED ALL THEIR RESOURCES TO BUILD THE ENORMOUS *MEGATRUK*.

IT WAS PAINFUL TO SEE THE SMILING AND HAPPY PEOPLE, UNCRATING THE GLEAMING NEW DRIVER/NAVIGATOR ROBOT.

WITH A CHARACTERISTIC "NEW FRONTIER" LACK OF IMAGINATION, THEY GAVE THE ROBOT THE SAME NAME AS THE *TRUCK*.

THEY *THOUSNT* THEY WERE HEADING FOR A NEW LIFE, AWAY FROM CORPORATE OPPRESSION.

WATCHING THE SCENE UNFOLD, IT WAS HARD NOT TO WEEP.

DUE TO INTERNAL STRIFE AND *PARANOIA*, THE COMMUNITY LEADERS SOON FELL INTO A VICIOUS POWER STRUGGLE.

IT SEEMED THAT WHEREVER MAN WENT, OR WHATEVER HE BELIEVED --HE FELL INTO THE *SAME* DEPRESSING HABITS.

MEN FROM ONE GROUP HAD LOADED *HOSTILE SECURITY PROGRAMS* INTO THE ROBOT DRIVER.

GOOD TREKKERS DON'T MAKE GOOD PROGRAMMERS.

THEIR DRIVER, *MEGATRUK*, TURNED ON [redacted] AND *KILLED* [redacted] *ALL!*

IT WAS AN UGLY STORY, BUT TO ANY STUDENT OF MANKIND, IT WAS HORRIBLY FAMILIAR.

IT WAS DOUBLY HARD FOR THESE "PEOPLE OF THE FLAME" TO REALIZE THAT THE COMING OF MEGATRUK WAS JUST A BIZARRE COINCIDENCE--THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR BELIEFS.

THEY HAD LIVED ALL THEIR LIVES UNDER THE LORD FLAME BEARERS...IF I WAS GOING TO BE OF ANY USE TO THESE PEOPLE, I HAD TO TAKE THE FLAME THROWER.

ALTHOUGH IT SICKENED ME...I HAD TO BECOME THE NEW FLAME BEARER... IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THEM LISTEN.

BUT THEY DID LISTEN..

IT TOOK NEARLY TWO WEEKS TO RE-EDUCATE THESE LOST AND CONFUSED PEOPLE. BUT USING ALL THE EQUIPMENT WE SALVAGED FROM THE MEGATRUK WRECKAGE--

--I WAS ABLE TO MAKE REAL CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, True Believers!

I've something important to tell you! I don't know if you're ready for it, but I think it's better for you to learn it from me than to pick up the information from some kids on the street! So here goes ...

Here in sunny Los Angeles I've been 3,000 miles away from the mighty Marvel Bullpen for almost 15 years now! And y'know what? Even though it's a blast doing movies, TV and animation, I miss the excitement and the sheer, raw, matchless creative rush of working on comic books! So hang on, heroes, 'cause here comes my big announcement!

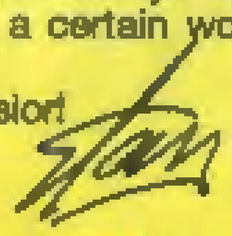
After consulting with our peerless prez, Merry **Terry Stewart**, and everybody's favorite editor-in-chief, **Tom DeFalco**, we decided it was time for me to get back into the ball game — time for me to play on the side of Marvel in the big leagues of comicdom again! Yep! You heard it right! From our halcyon headquarters here in California, I'm gonna start creating and producing a new line of comics for the hallowed House of Ideas — to go on sale sometime in '95!

Will the new mags be part of the magnificent Marvel Universe? Nope! The gang of geniuses in our batty bullpen are doing just great and don't need any help from me. Instead, I'll lay the foundation for creating a brand new universe — well, maybe not a whole universe, maybe just a planet or two, or even a single continent — or a country. A city? How about a neighborhood? A shopping mall? An apartment, perhaps? As you can tell, I'm just as modest and humble as ever!

Since I'll still be spearheading our show-biz ventures, I'll need help, of course, to get the new books started. Therefore, I've shanghaied one of Marvel's comic book commandos, Riotous **Rob Tokar**, from our New York editorial staff. Daredevil Rob is gonna brave the earthquakes, floods, fires and drive-by shootings here in L.A. just to make sure I don't blow this bit! And one of our Hollywood staffers, Meritorious **Mallory Liles**, is also coming along for the ride. That's it! Just us three Marvel-teers against the world!

In case you're bustin' to find out what we'll call our nutty new line of comics, here's a subtle hint. Notice how I always sign off these columns? There's a certain word I tend to use...

Excelsior!



Stan Lee

HYPE BOX

Rogue's past comes back to haunt her in the ROGUE 4-issue Limited Series beginning this week, according to Associate Editor **Lisa Patrick**. The plot, which Lisa promised is "a lot of fun," has the head of the Assassins' Guild, Belladonna, seeking revenge on Rogue, because of the events of the Gambit Limited Series. Belladonna is looking for Rogue's weak spots, and she finds 'em: Cody (the comatose boy who Rogue kissed years ago) and Rogue's current love, Gambit! Thus begins a race against time for Rogue to save the two people she cares about the most!

The creative team for the ROGUE Limited Series is writer **Howard Mackie**, penciler **Mike Weiringo**, and inker **Terry Austin**. Lisa described the art for ROGUE as being "beautiful! It's very cool!" Although Rogue has been around for a few years, this is her very first Limited Series. Lisa noted that "Rogue has a lot of history. It's time for us to start exploring it."

QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

In honor of Thanksgiving, our favorite Pilgrim-related holiday, we thought we'd ask a food question this month. The following query was posed to some of Marvel's best and brightest: *What kind of food do you eat when you read comic books?*

Joe Phillips (Penciler, SILVER SURFER): I like to drink Snapple!

Mort Todd (Editor, MARVEL MUSIC): Dry Captain Crunch cereal, right out of the box.

Nancy Poletti (Assistant Editor, BEST OF MARVEL 1994): Beefaroni is good food!

Dave Taylor (Penciler, FORCE WORKS): My favorite snack is peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Sometimes the jelly drips onto the comic book page, and it can really enhance the artwork!

Tom Daning (Associate Editor, PRINCE VALIANT): Usually I don't eat while I read my comic books. Usually, it's quite the opposite!

Mike Lackey (Editor, REN & STIMPY): I don't read comics!

Tom Grindberg (Penciler, DAREDEVIL): Tostitos and salsa. And after that, Edie's Tin Roof Ice Cream!

Glenn Herdling (Writer, BLACKWULF): When I read DC's, I eat pizza. When I read Marvels, I wear gloves!

Janice Chiang (Letterer, THUNDERSTRIKE): I eat all my meals reading comic books!

"Professor" James Felder (Assistant editor, BLAZE): I like eating greasy food when I read comic books! It's cool because it leaves these really weird stains on the paper, and you can see through to the next page!

Richard Ashford (Editor, CONAN): I usually drink tea, but I avoid sticky buns!

John Ostrander (Writer, BISHOP Limited Series): If you're going to be traditional, one should read a comic with a glass of milk and chocolate chip cookies!

Tim Tuohy (Editor, REN & STIMPY QUARTERLY): Breakfast cereal. I like Coco Krispies with chocolate milk, because I can't wait for the milk to turn chocolatey!

NOW ON SALE

- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #397:** What has six arms and wants to kill Spidey? By DeMatteis/Bagley/Mahlstedt!
- ☐ **BARBIE #49:** You'll be thankful for some tasty Thanksgiving stories! By Slate/Wilshire!
- ☐ **BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD TPB: TRASHCAN EDITION:** The suckiest stories/art By Ricko "the Sicko" Parker!
- ☐ **BISHOP #2 OF 4:** Bishop must climb **Mount Joy** — correction, must stop Mountjoy! By Ostrander/Pacheco/C. Smith!
- ☐ **BLACKWULF #8:** Trapped on an alien world ravaged by **Tantalus**! By Herdling/Medina/Anderson!
- ☐ **CONAN CLASSIC #6:** Gargantuan gila monsters! No, that's not a new grunge band! By Thomas/Windsor-Smith/Sutton!
- ☐ **CONAN SAGA #94:** Believe it or not — it's **Belit**! By Thomas/Buscema/Chan!
- ☐ **GENERATION X DELUXE #3: Penance** must be penalized! By Lobdell/Bachalo/Buckingham!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #57:** When **Wolverine** shows up — can the **Next Wave** be far behind? By Mackie/Larroca/Metal
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #58:** It's time to elect a new leader! By Gallagher/West/Montano!
- ☐ **HULK 2099 #2:** It's Hulk vs. **Draco** in the battle for Hollywood 2099! By Jones/M. Davis/Ivy!
- ☐ **THE LITTLE MERMAID #5:** When Ariel takes **Aunt Crustacea** sightseeing — look out! By Robbins/Corzon/Hunt!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #171: Doc Samson** analyzes **Vengeance**!
- ☐ **NIGHTMARE #2 OF 4:** Nightmare quits his day job, and **Exile** takes over! By Nocenti/Bennett/Witherby!
- ☐ **NIGHT THRASHER #18:** Fighting alongside the **Black Panther** in Africa! By Busiek/Nichols/Rubinstein et. al.!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #35:** Frank dives into the **River of Blood**! By Dixon/J. Kubert!
- ☐ **RAVAGE 2099 #26:** It's a savage showdown — and may the Beast-Man win! By Mills & Skinner/Bennett/Adams!
- ☐ **ROGUE #1 OF 4:** The mega-popular mutant in her very first limited series! By Mackie/Wieringo/ Austin!
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #23:** A mystery magician is assembling his own team of Defenders! By Brevoort & Kanterovich/Wylie/DeZuniga!
- ☐ **SILVER [illegible] #32: Hammerhead** hijacks a train — and Sable is pregnant! By Wright/Purcell/Eklund!
- ☐ **ULTRA X-MEN COLLECTION #2 OF 5:** From painted cards to painted comics!
- ☐ **WAR MACHINE #10: Iron Man & Force Works** lend a hand against the [illegible]! By Kaminski & Benson/Gecko/Eklund!
- ☐ **WOLVERINE DELUXE #69:** Wolvie bangs skulls with **Ghost Rider**! By Hama/Kubert/Farmer!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR DELUXE #110: Lila Cheney** returns! What will Guido do? By Dezago/Duursema/Milgrom!
- ☐ **X-MEN ADVENTURES SEASON II #12:** Time for a trip to the **Savage Land**! By Macchio/Hebert/Adams!
- ☐ **X-MEN: THE EARLY YEARS #9:** Don't make any deals with **Lucifer**! He cheats! By Lee/Kirby/Stone!
- ☐ **X-MEN SPECTACULAR: A MUTANT CALLED LEGION #2 OF 4:** Classic Legion tales! By Claremont/Sienkiewicz & Cockrum/ Wiacek!

NEXT WEEK'S BOOKS: DOOM 2099 BATTLES HIS DOPPELGANGER ... SHADOWCAT VS. WOLVERINE IN THE DANGEROUS ... GET MAXED ON MARVEL! ... THE X-MEN TAKE ON LEGION! ... MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS ... ONLY ONE WILL LIVE ... A NEW PUNISHER — DR. STRANGE SEEKS THE INFINITY GEMS ... WHAT IF STRYFE KILLED THE X-MEN — NOVA

NOW, YOU PEOPLE ARE REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?

THIS IS YOUR DECISION, RIGHT?

DO IT, RAVAGE... WE'RE READY!

THIS WAS GREAT... I'D NEVER FELT SO GOOD...

OKAY-- AS THE LAST LORD FLAME BEARER... I HEREBY ABOLISH THE OFFICE!

SNAARRL! YOU!!

RAVAGE...! I HAVE YOU AT LAST!

NEXT: WHO?

RANTS & RAVES

MATTHEW MORRA — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI — GROUP EDITOR

c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

Out Of My Head

It's tough to get a straight answer, so I'm asking you.

I'm told that when we do a special cover, you guys appreciate it when we do a version of the same comic that doesn't carry the "enhancement" and is therefore less expensive.

Figuring that this is some chessy ploy to get you to buy two, I asked around and was told that comics store owners and comic book fans like having the less expensive form available. In fact, you demand it. Which is why our 25th issues were done that way.

Okay, I'll believe it...if you tell me directly.

The best letters get printed. Keep a civil tongue so I can do so.

Dear *Rants & Raves*,

RAVAGE 2099 has gone completely over the edge! I love it! The Beast is totally loose! It was awesome when Ravage got furious because they wouldn't listen to him. I couldn't believe Ravage hit his father like that!

I also loved the part where Ravage said, "Grrrowl! Bring out your children... I'm feeling hungry!" And the part where he shredded Darrius Rush and Gori Kinda was cool.

1) Have Dethstryk come back and have a showdown with Ravage.

2) Have Ravage travel over the USA and other countries.

Brandon James
13095 S. Cliffside Dr.
Mulino, OR 97042

1) Next issue.
2) Every issue after that.

To Whom It May Concern At 2099,

I've just finished RAVAGE 2099 #22. I'm glad you had Jake (Punisher 2099) Gallows and Paul-Philip have a meeting of minds. At least now, if they work together again in future issues (and I hope this is a certainty), guarding each other's backs may bring on a whole new meaning. Good for them, but bad for the bad guys!

Also, I'm glad to see you've given Paul-Philip a close working partner of sorts— a giant-size, multi-powered sentient bat with a sense of humor in the bargain (Avatarr did look a tad ticked off with this alliance. If so, good. He needs some aggravation in his life.). Here's hoping they both give Alchemax plenty of grief in the future.

I grant you that at first meeting, face to face, Paul-Philip is somewhat scary. But once one overcomes that initial fear and listens to him they're likely to ally themselves with him. Let us see someone or some persons like that show up in Ravage's future. Actually, he's still a good looking fellow even when he is in his animal form.

Mark Selom
2372 E. 26th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Avatarr is overdue for more aggravation, Mark, and he gets plenty of it, starting next ish!

Dear *Rants & Raves*,

Issue #22 was outstanding! It was an excellent idea to have Ravage team up with someone! It's good that Ravage got out of the city to find more of his own kind.

1) How about Ravage gets a new costume instead of the ripped one he now wears?

2) Is Ravage going to ever go back to Hellrock and if he does is he going to take out Dethstryk once and for all?

Jesse McKone
95 East Mountain Ave.
Winsted, CT 06098

Do we aim to please or what?

Dear *Rants & Raves*,

I read issue #22 and wanted to tell you guys what an excellent job you're doing! Ravage's new sidekick is awesome and will add to the brutal yet graceful style of this comic. What sets Ravage apart from the rest of the Marvel Universe is his unpredictability. I can never get comfortable reading this comic, and I like that. Keep up the great work. Marvel madness lives!

De Liles
15919 Eppes Rd.
DeWitt, VA 23840

Unpredictability is our middle name. Next year we've got two new books coming out and we guarantee you won't be able to guess what they are!

Dear Matt & Joey,

Let's see... RAVAGE 2099 #22: written by Pat Mills and Tony Skinner: Same old geniuses. If I continue to rant and rave about these guys no one's gonna pay attention to me. Instead I'll discuss the artistic merits of penciler Joe Bennett: WOW!

"Exodus" is a story worthy of an anniversary issue. That we get it three months early makes me quiver in anticipation of the real event.

This creative team is one of the best in the business. Keep 'em in chains, lock their doors and throw away the key.

Steve Perrem
2920 Meridian St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

We're not lettin' Pat 'n' Tony go anywhere...they've still gotta finish the current issue of THE PUNISHER 2099!

Dear Mr. Morra,

What's the deal with the bat? Ravage on!

Herbie Ascherman
31 Union Square W. #5A
New York, NY 10003

Boy meets bat, bat communicates telepathically, boy and bat take off together. Your typical buddy story.

Dear *Rants & Raves*,

I was very pleased with issue #22. Getting rid of Ravage's supporting cast was a smart move. On one hand, I understand how supporting casts are important to a book, but in this case I honestly believe that Paul-Philip is better off as the mysterious wanderer with a past. I see him as a future-day version of Clint Eastwood's "man with no name" from those great Sergio Leone westerns, wandering the highways and byways of 2099 in search of the weird and the wonderful. The possibilities for future storylines are endless. I can't wait to see what you guys do with this new format.

As for new artist Joe Bennett, what can I say? Take one part Mike Mignola, one part Jack Kirby, just a touch of Moebius, shake well then add a great inker like Greg Adams and you've got RAVAGE 2099 #22. Bravo.

Kevin Garrison
(Address withheld by request)

Yeah, Kevin, you kinda got what we had in mind!

Dear *Rants & Raves*,

Ravage 2099 is the most radical super hero of all time (and I should know, I have all his comics)! Nice going! Let your 25th issue be one long remembered.

Ryan Schueller
1114 Muirfield Rd.
Riverside, CA 92506

NEXT ISSUE

We couldn't put it off any longer! A return to Hellrock was in store...and so is a plan by the mad Dethstryk to turn the whole planet into "Hellworld!" The Bearess returns, and as promised, so does Avatarr! So you should, too!